



30 July 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00219**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 24 July in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I am making this request under the freedom of information act to ask for the following information:*

*Can we get a detailed breakdown by ethnicity of all PHD funded studentships offered by the seven research councils you represent, for each of the following five academic years: a) 2014/2015 B) 2015/16 C) 2016/17 D) 2017/18 E) 2018/19*

*When referring to a breakdown, this should include figures for each of the following categories:*

White

- English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveler
- Any other White background

Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background

Asian / Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

- African
- Caribbean
- Any other Black / African / Caribbean background

Other ethnic group

- Arab
- Any other ethnic group

## Our response:

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

The information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 22(1) of the FOIA as it is intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption meaning that it is subject to the public interest test.

UKRI understand that being transparent in regard to funded studentships is in the public interest. However, the data is still incomplete and we are of the view that releasing the information as it currently stands would be inaccurate, incomplete and misleading and thus not in the public interest.

We have therefore determined that the outcome of this test is that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate disclosure. This information is likely to be available in the autumn when UKRI are planning to publish results by detailed ethnicity categories. The precise date of publication however is yet to be determined.

In lieu of this, the data currently available on this subject for the academic years requested can be found as part of UKRI's published diversity data that you were directed to in the response to your previous FOI request, reference FOI2020/00216. A copy of this is attached for your convenience.

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact:

Head of Information Governance


Email: [foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) or [infogovernance@ukri.org](mailto:infogovernance@ukri.org)

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,

  
Information Governance  
Information Rights Team  
UK Research and Innovation  
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